

InsideCincy

A “Pup-ular” Day at the Ballpark

THIS SUMMER AND FALL THE CINCINNATI REDS ARE OFFERING GAMES ENJOYABLE FOR BOTH HUMANS AND DOGS OF ALL AGES

By Haley Jena

Baseball fans are invited to bring their dogs to four Bark in the Park games hosted by the Reds.

This summer and fall in Cincinnati, you can watch a game of fetch—but this time, it’s humans chasing after the ball with dogs standing by and watching, rather than the other way around.

The Cincinnati Reds’ Bark in the Park program offers fans the chance to watch the Reds alongside their dogs in Great American Ball Park. Four games this season are reserved for Reds fans to take their pups out to the ball game.

Two games have already happened, but fear not—there are still two more Bark in the Parks you can enjoy this summer: Aug. 29 vs. the New York Mets and Sept. 21 vs. the St. Louis Cardinals.

The games, presented by Rachael Ray Nutrish and Kroger, are popular for dog lovers, baseball lovers and lovers of both—so, almost everyone you know.

“It’s a great experience for the community,” says Reds Single Game Ticket Coordinator Ryan Haynes. “It gets people in the ballpark that normally wouldn’t be

there. It’s a shared experience.”

On the day of the game, there’s a pregame pet parade on the track surrounding the field before the action starts. Fans and their dogs can meet other pets, have their photo taken with their dog in front of a cool Reds backdrop (with a donation to SPCA Cincinnati) and see pups available for adoption.

Besides all the extra fun offered in the pregame, Haynes says the presence of dogs in the audience enhances the atmosphere in the ballpark.

“Sections 136-139 in the right field corner is reserved for dogs and their owners, and the buzz coming from that side of the stadium is always fun,” Haynes says. “The last game, we had more than 400 dogs there. There’s dogs of every shape and size, and it’s just a cool atmosphere.”

And Bark in the Park is more than just another baseball game—it’s a great opportunity for dog owners to share a fun summer experience with their furry friends.

“This is an experience that you can share

with your dog that you can’t get in any other form in the city. You can’t bring your dog to a lot of other entertainment options in the city, so people really enjoy coming out to these games.”

Haynes says the program has definitely evolved and grown since its creation.

“Bark in the Park has become more popular thanks to the team doing better and the weather being better,” Haynes says. “Last year, we floated around 500 tickets on average per game. Now, the last Bark in the Park game we had [in July], over 1,300 tickets were sold—416 for dogs and 770 for humans. Beyond the chance to bring your dog, the excitement of the team doing well has contributed to the program’s popularity.”

Single game packages are available for \$50 at <http://m.mlb.com/reds/tickets/info/bark>, which includes one dog ticket and one human ticket. Fans can buy additional human tickets for \$30 and additional dog tickets for \$20. ■